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Spencer's first book, *Social Statics*, proved to be an inconvenience on many occasions. He did not succeed in getting his critics to confine their attention to the revised edition of 1892 of the *Social Statics* as against the first edition of 1850. The first part of his *First Principles* also gave occasion to much uncalled for criticism as he endeavored in vain to show that his critics should look for the real foundations of his system in part ii of his principles, part i being negative only. It has been well observed, and Spencer seems to have sanctioned this view, that part i of his principles should not have appeared at all or should have appeared at the close instead of at the beginning of his system of philosophy.

Probably no writer has ever received more universal congratulation from all quarters of the globe than did Spencer when, in 1896, he completed his system; and no man has been accorded more genuine respect for his courage and high moral purposes than was he at the time of his death in December, 1903, in the eighty-fourth year of his age. Appendix D furnishes a list of academic and other honors proffered to Spencer; these, with few exceptions, he declined. Appendices A and B contain two papers which should have formed chapters in the Autobiography except for the fact that they were written subsequent to 1892 when the plates for the Autobiography were made. An authorized portrait of Herbert Spencer was painted by Sir Hubert von Herkimer near the close of Spencer's life. An index of fifty-five pages concludes the work.

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The Human Harvest. A Study of the Decay of Races through the Survival of the Unfit. By DAVID STARR JORDAN, President of Leland Stanford, Jr., University. (Boston: American Unitarian Association, 1907. Pp. 122. \$1 net).

When the biologist turns sociologist he is apt to overlook the complexity of his human subject-matter. He imports wholesale from biology his generalizations, forgetting that many new and important factors in human life complicate the situation, and render a sociology deduced wholly from biology unsafe. President Jordan, in this interesting essay on the causes of the decline of

nations, does not wholly escape these criticisms. Indeed, he at times presents an extreme biological view of social evolution, which no critical sociologist could accept. "The decline of a people," he says (p. 25), "can have but one cause,—the decline in the type from which it draws its sires. A herd of cattle can degenerate in no other way than this, and a race of men is under the same laws." In other words, the cause of the decline of nations is what biologists know as the "reversal of selection," that is, the breeding from the inferior, the relatively unintelligent and inefficient elements of the population. President Jordan agrees with Seeck that this was the cause of the decline of ancient Rome, the stronger and more manly elements in the population being exterminated by Rome's incessant wars, and the weak and degenerate being left at home to breed. He finds that the same cause, operating especially through Napoleon's wars, has produced the decadence of France; and so far as there is evidence of degeneration in the populations of England and the United States he attributes it to the same influence. President Jordan lays especial stress upon war as the chief factor which produces a "reversal of selection" in human society, so much so, indeed, that his essay produces the impression of being a "peace tract." He overlooks many other factors which equally with war reverse the selective process in human society and cause "the survival of the unfit." For example, he fails even to mention the economic and social competition which among the most intelligent and efficient classes in American society is so productive of late marriages and lessened birth-rate.

There is much weighty truth, of course, in all that Dr. Jordan says, and in fairness to him it must be added that his exaggerated emphasis on biological factors is in part purposeful, in order to draw attention to what he believes a neglected phase of social evolution. In general, then, the essay is wholesome reading for those who are inclined to unduly minimize the importance of the biological factors of heredity and selection in human social life.

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